REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY)	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED (From - To)		
August 2012	Viewgraph	August 2012- November 2012		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE		5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
On the Non-Pauli Electronic States of Atoms and Molecules		In-House		
		5b. GRANT NUMBER		
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S)		5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
P.W. Langhoff and Jeff Mills		5e. TASK NUMBER		
		5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
		Q0C5		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NO.		
Air Force Research Laboratory (AFM	C)			
AFRL/RQRP				
10 E. Saturn Blvd.				
Edwards AFB CA 93524-7680				
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENC	Y NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)	10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)		
Air Force Research Laboratory (AFM	C)			
AFRL/RQR				
5 Pollux Drive		11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT		
Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048		NUMBER(S)		
		AFRL-RQ-ED-VG-2012-284		

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Distribution A: Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited. PA#12806

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Conference paper for the 2012 California-Nevada Section Meeting of the American Physical Society, San Luis Obispo, California in 2-3 November 2012.

14. ABSTRACT

Schrödinger's equation for atoms and molecules supports solutions that are not totally antisymmetric under electron coordinate permutations. These non-Pauli eigenstates are generally regarded as unphysical, with interest in them centered largely on their role as possible ``contaminants" in physical solutions constructed by methods that provide only approximate antisymmetry, such as exchange perturbation theories, many-body diagrammatic approaches, and variational methods in the absence of precise prior enforcement of basis-state antisymmetry. Here we report atomic and molecular non-Pauli Schröodinger solutions employing largely pedestrian methods as an alternative to the more complicated Wigner-Weyl approach based on theory of the symmetric group. Using the non-relativistic Hamiltonian operator and spin-orbital product representations in variational calculations, we show that every antisymmetric Schröodinger eigenstate of an n electron atom or molecule is accompanied by 2^n-1 degenerate non-Pauli ``ghost" solutions. As a consequence of this degeneracy, admixtures of non-Pauli states are always present in Pauli solutions having only approximate antisymmetry. These can significantly affect calculated expectation values, even in the face of precise energy predictions.

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CL	ASSIFICATION OF:		17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON Wayne Kalliomma
a. REPORT	b. ABSTRACT	c. THIS PAGE	CAD	13	19b. TELEPHONE NO (include area code)
Unclassified	Unclassified	Unclassified	SAR	15	661-275-6442

On the Non-Pauli States of Atoms and Molecules^a

J.D. Mills & P.W. Langhoff, AFRL/UCSD

- The Schrödinger equation allows "non-Pauli" solutions.
- A formal theory was given by Wigner and Weyl.
- A pedestrian variational approach is described here.
- Non-Pauli states can "contaminate" antisymmetric states.

- a Supported by AFOSR/AFRL/NRC
- ${f b}$ Theor. Chem. Accts. **120**, 199-213 (2008).

The Central Ideas

- An unrestricted Hartree product of atomic spin orbitals is complete for Pauli and non-Pauli Schrödinger eigenstates.
- The non-relativisitic Hamiltonian matrix in this representation can be constructed employing standard methods.
- Pauli and non-Pauli states can be separated ex post facto.^a
- Totally antisymmetric Schrödinger eigenstates are always accompanied by 2^n -1 degenerate non-Pauli ghost states.

a - Chem. Phys. Lett. **358**, 231-236 (2002)

The Basic Equations

Schrödinger equation:

$$\hat{H}(r)\Psi(r) = \Psi(r) \cdot \mathbf{E}$$

Non-relativistic Hamiltonian operator:

$$\hat{H}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\{ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_i^2 - \frac{Ze^2}{r_i} + \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} \frac{e^2}{r_{ij}} \right\}$$

Spin-orbital Hartree-product representation:

$$\Phi(r) = \{\phi(\mathbf{1}) \otimes \phi(\mathbf{2}) \otimes \cdots \phi(n)\}_{O}$$

Spin-orbital row vector:

$$\phi(i) = \{1s\alpha(i), 1s\beta(i), 2s\alpha(i), 2s\beta(i), \ldots\}$$

A Simple Example - Atomic Helium

Two spin orbitals:

$$\phi(1) = \{1s\alpha(1), 1s\beta(1)\}, \quad \phi(2) = \{1s\alpha(2), 1s\beta(2)\}$$

Spin-orbital Hartree-product representation:

$$\mathbf{\Phi}(1,2) = \{ \boldsymbol{\phi}(1) \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}(2) \}_O$$

$$= 1s(1)1s(2) \{\alpha(1)\alpha(2), \alpha(1)\beta(2), \beta(1)\alpha(2), \beta(1)\beta(2)\}\$$

Hamiltonian operator:

$$\hat{H}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{2} \left\{ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_i^2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_i} \right\} + \frac{e^2}{r_{12}}$$

Atomic Helium - Energy Matrix

Hamiltonian matrix:

$$\mathbf{H} \equiv \langle \mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}) | \hat{H}(\mathbf{r}) | \mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} E_{1s^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E_{1s^2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E_{1s^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & E_{1s^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$E_{1s^2} = 2\langle 1s(1)| - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_{\mathbf{1}}^2 - \frac{2e^2}{r_1} |1s(1)\rangle$$

$$+ \langle 1s(1)1s(2)| \frac{e^2}{r_{12}} |1s(1)1s(2)\rangle$$

Atomic Helium - Spin Eigenstates

Spin singlet eigenstate (S=0):

$$1s(1)1s(2)\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \{\alpha(1)\beta(2) - \beta(1)\alpha(2)\} (M_S = 0)$$

Spin triplet eigenstates (S=1):

$$1s(1)1s(2) \{\alpha(1)\alpha(2)\} (M_S = +1)$$

$$1s(1)1s(2)\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \{\alpha(1)\beta(2) + \beta(1)\alpha(2)\} (M_S = 0)$$

$$1s(1)1s(2) \{\beta(1)\beta(2)\} (M_S = -1)$$

Another Example - Atomic Lithium

Four spin orbitals for each electron:

$$\phi(1) = \{1s\alpha(1), 1s\beta(1), 2s\alpha(1), 2s\beta(1)\}$$

$$\phi(2) = \{1s\alpha(2), 1s\beta(2), 2s\alpha(2), 2s\beta(2)\}\$$

$$\phi(3) = \{1s\alpha(3), 1s\beta(3), 2s\alpha(3), 2s\beta(3)\}\$$

Spin-orbital Hartree-product representation (64 terms):

$$\mathbf{\Phi}(1,2,3) = \{ \boldsymbol{\phi}(1) \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}(2) \otimes \boldsymbol{\phi}(3) \}_{O}$$

Atomic Lithium - Basis Functions

Spin (8) and space (8) basis functions:

$$oldsymbol{\Phi}(oldsymbol{r}) = oldsymbol{\Phi}_{space}(oldsymbol{r}) \otimes oldsymbol{\Phi}_{spin}(oldsymbol{r})$$

$$\Phi_{spin}(\mathbf{r}) = \{\alpha(1)\alpha(2)\alpha(3), \alpha(1)\alpha(2)\beta(3), \alpha(1)\beta(2)\alpha(3), \\
\alpha(1)\beta(2)\beta(3), \beta(1)\alpha(2)\alpha(3), \beta(1)\alpha(2)\beta(3), \\
\beta(1)\beta(2)\alpha(3), \beta(1)\beta(2)\beta(3)\}$$

$$\Phi_{space}(\mathbf{r}) = \{1s(1)1s(2)1s(3), 1s(1)1s(2)2s(3), 1s(1)2s(2)1s(3), \\ 1s(1)2s(2)2s(3), 2s(1)1s(2)1s(3), 2s(1)1s(2)2s(3), \\ 2s(1)2s(2)1s(3), 2s(1)2s(2)2s(3)\}$$

Atomic Lithium - Energy Matrix

Hamiltonian matrix:

Atomic Lithium - Energy (au) Ladder

Pauli States (theory/exp.)	Non-Pauli States
-	-1.766 (8)
-	-5.202(8)
$(1s2s^2)^2$ S(+1/2) -5.232/-5.323	-5.232(7)
$(1s2s^2)^2$ S(-1/2) -5.232/-5.323	-5.232(7)
-	-7.348 (8)
$(1s^22s)^2S(+1/2) -7.433/-7.476$	-7.433(7)
$(1s^22s)^2S(-1/2)$ -7.433/-7.476	-7.433(7)
-	-8.422 (8)

Atomic Lithium - In Summary

- There are 8 unique energies each of which is 8-fold degenerate
- There are 4 Pauli states $(1s^22s)^2S(\pm 1/2)$, $(1s2s^2)^2S(\pm 1/2)$
- There are 20 totally symmetric states
- There are 40 mixed symmetry states
- Each physical state has 7 degenerate non-Pauli states

Generalizations

- The Hartree product always factors; $\Phi(r) = \Phi_{space}(r) \otimes \Phi_{spin}(r)$.
- The dimension of $\Phi_{spin}(r)$ is 2^n for n electrons.
- The dimension of $\Phi_{space}(r)$ is arbitrarily large.
- Every physical Schrödinger state has $2^n 1$ non-Pauli ghosts.
- The number of non-Pauli states increases rapidly with n.
- Degenerate non-Pauli states can contribute to physical states in the absence of precise total antisymmetry.
- Such mixed states can provide accurate energies but can include significant non-Pauli contributions to physical expectation values.